

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Present:** Alloway, Bolin, Bradford, Fech, Flowers, Hachtmann, Lacost, Lindquist, Moeller, Rapkin, Zimmers

**Absent:** Ledder, Prochaska Cue

**Date:** Wednesday, August 22, 2007

**Location:** 201 Canfield Administration Building

**Note:** These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Executive Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

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### **1.0 Call to Order**

Bradford called the meeting to order 2:31.

### **2.0 Chancellor Perlman, Vice Chancellor Owens, SVCAA Couture**

#### **2.1 Boycott of Israeli Scholars and Universities by the British National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education**

Bradford stated that it has been brought to his attention that there is a letter in the New York Times against the boycott of Israeli scholars and one of the signatures on the letter is that of the Chancellor of UNMC. He stated that he is being asked why UNL did not sign the letter.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he did not receive the original message about the letter. He pointed out that there is supposed to be a rule that states that Central Administration makes these kinds of statements and he prefers to adhere to this rule. He noted that only the President of the university can speak for the university on issues of this kind.

#### **2.2 External Funding and Research Funding Figures**

Bradford stated that information recently released by Vice Chancellor Paul's office indicates that the amount of total sponsored funding has gone up but the total research funding has decreased. He asked what the difference is between the two.

Chancellor Perlman pointed out that all of the grants and contracts that UNL gets are not engaged in research. He stated that a lot of federal and other types of grants are not counted as research funding because it relates to teaching or extension. Vice Chancellor Owens stated that the Institute receives a lot of this kind of funding but it is now considered research in the strict sense of the definition of research.

Bradford asked if we expect to see the amount of federal research funding staying fairly flat over the next few years. Chancellor Perlman stated that if some of the federal research funding remains the same then it would be viewed as a decline. He noted that it is much more difficult now to get research money. He stated that he is happy with the

amount of research funding UNL received last year in light of the increased competitiveness for research grants. He pointed out that the timing in getting some of these grants is a factor and faculty members will need to work hard to sustain the increases in research funding.

### **2.3 Issues on the Horizon**

Bradford stated that he has heard that there is a slide show presentation about the state fair grounds and how they would look if the state fair is moved and the university gets possession of the current state fair grounds.

Chancellor Perlman reported that a private presentation was given to help people see down the road what the grounds would look like if the university gets them. He pointed out that the university has been very transparent with the State Fair Board and the Agricultural Committee with the possible plans for the state fair grounds. He noted that the university has also been very clear about the nature of the concept of having a technology park. He stated that currently this is just a concept. He stated that there would be both private and public facilities on the grounds.

Bradford asked if some of the campus recreation fields on campus would become available for new buildings if the state fair grounds are acquired. Chancellor Perlman stated that this is already being explored with the renovation of the Whittier building. He stated that the two soccer fields in front of Whittier will be relocated by Mabel Lee. He noted that some of the plans for the 2015 project would have an impact on some campus recreation sites. He stated that there is real potential for a lot of campus recreation fields in the Haymarket Park area if the railroad gets relocated with the redevelopment of the Haymarket area.

Bradford stated that he just went through moving his daughter into one of the dorms and he noted that the facilities and dorm employees were incredibly good. He stated that they were all very helpful and went out of their way to help everyone out.

Moeller stated that she recently had a group of people in for workshops and she reported that they were all so thrilled with housing and they were surprised to see the technology that was available in the dorms. She stated that they thought the staff was incredibly solicitous and very accommodating. She noted that this group has just signed a long term contract to come to Nebraska again for workshops next year.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he is not amazed anymore to hear these kinds of comments but he does find it very gratifying. He pointed out that so many of the things that get done at the university are largely invisible and are being done so well by the staff all of the time.

Alloway stated that he and a number of students from the College of Journalism & Mass Communications just returned from a trip to Great Britain where they attended the largest European quilt show. He reported that everyone at the show knew about UNL and its plan to open an international quilt center. He stated that they were all very well received

at the show and the university is thought very highly by the people who went to the show. He noted that many of the people indicated they want to come to Lincoln to see the center when it opens.

Chancellor Perlman asked when the report will be out about the trip. Alloway stated that the magazine and documentary film will be done in the late spring to coincide with the opening of the international quilt center.

Chancellor Perlman reported that Professor Thomas, History has agreed to serve on the search committee for the director of the Sheldon Art Gallery.

VC Owens reported that in just a few days the very first veterinary medical students will begin their classes here. He pointed out that this will be the first time veterinary medicine has been taught in the history of the university and the State of Nebraska. He stated that he is very pleased that the new program was able to attract some first rate veterinarians to serve on the faculty. He noted that some people had originally thought that it would be difficult to attract professors to the program but Professor Hardin, Associate Dean for Veterinary Medicine and Head of Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences, reported that people wanted to come to UNL because of its reputation.

SVCAA Couture stated that she just came from the new faculty orientation and commented that they are a fine new group of faculty members. She stated that they were an engaging group and they are eager to start teaching. She noted that she saw the same thing with the new group of graduate teaching assistants.

The Committee had a discussion with the Chancellor about an accreditation issue.

### **3.0 Announcements**

#### **3.1 Computational Services and Facilities Committee**

Flowers reported that the committee is working on getting a new chair. He stated that at the last meeting the committee discussed the problem of students illegally downloading music and whether there should be a clear policy regarding downloading of files.

### **4.0 Approval of 8/8/07 Minutes**

The minutes were approved as amended.

### **5.0 Unfinished Business**

#### **5.1 Waskar Ari Resolution**

Bradford reported that he had received a letter from the President of the Faculty Senate at Georgetown University thanking the UNL Faculty Senate for their efforts on Professor Ari. He stated that he sent a brief response back stating that UNL is glad that he is finally here.

Bradford noted that Ledder had suggested making a resolution at the September Senate meeting welcoming Professor Ari to UNL. Bradford stated that Ledder is asking the Executive Committee to adopt and present the resolution.

Moeller stated that she is not sure why this is being done. She noted that it could be setting a precedent for any controversial issues that arise here. She pointed out that everyone who comes to UNL is special but adopting the resolution will put Professor Ari in the spot light. Alloway agreed and wondered how this would make the rest of the new faculty members feel.

Fech pointed out that there has been extraordinary circumstances and public embarrassment for Professor Ari with the long delay of him getting his visa. He noted that Professor Ari has already been put into the spot light whether he wanted it or not.

Alloway wondered whether something else could be done to welcome Professor Ari. Griffin suggested that a letter be sent to Professor Ari from the Executive Committee welcoming him to UNL.

Bradford stated that he will make an announcement at the first meeting informing the Senate that Professor Ari is now on campus. Bradford pointed out that Ledder could make a resolution as an individual senator.

Fech noted that he learned from Past President Wunder that the Senate is an advocate for the faculty and having a resolution for Professor Ari would be standing up for one of the faculty members. Alloway pointed out that the Senate has already passed two resolutions in support of Professor Ari welcoming him to UNL.

The Committee decided not to have a resolution. Bradford stated that he would relay the information to Ledder. He stated that he would draft a letter to Professor Ari welcoming him to UNL.

## **6.0 New Business**

### **6.1 Committee on Committees Membership**

Bradford stated that he has solved half of the problem with the membership of the Committee on Committees by changing his designee to Alloway who is from the College of Journalism & Mass Communications.

Bradford stated that this still leaves three members from the Libraries on the committee and the syllabus states no more than 2 from any one college can serve on the committee. He noted that two of these people will be going off the committee after this year. He suggested that a motion be passed to waive the stipulation for one year. He pointed out that the Committee on Committees did a fantastic job last year.

Griffin suggested that the Committee might want to review the syllabus to see if the membership should be updated or changed. She questioned whether there is a need to have two members from the Senate elected to the committee each year. Bradford stated that he plans to send a letter to the chair to ask that the committee look at its current structure and make recommendations to the Senate if it should be changed. He pointed

out that the current structure under represents Arts & Sciences and IANR and over represents the smaller colleges.

Bradford moved that a resolution be presented to the Senate that would temporarily waive the requirement on the Committee on Committees that restricts only having two faculty members serving from the same college. Alloway seconded the motion. Motion approved by the Committee.

## **6.2 Changes to the Procedures for the Pound-Howard Award**

Bradford reminded the Committee that there was a problem last year with some of the procedures for the Pound-Howard award and the Honorary Degrees Committee was asked to revise the procedures. He noted that the Committee has done this and now wants the Executive Committee to review the changes. He stated that other than a few language changes he thought the revisions look fine. The Committee agreed. Bradford stated that he will contact the chair of the Honorary Degrees Committee to let him know of his suggestions to the language.

Alloway pointed out that the procedures will be changed this year by the Senate Office sending out the call for nominations. All nominating materials will be sent to the Senate Office instead of the Chancellor's office.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, August 29 at 12:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites. The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and Rick Alloway, Secretary.